your work, because this is about the first letter that I have dictated to my secretary since the incident in New York. My doctors have urged me to rest at least another month without even dictating letters. But for Tee Walker, I am willing to disobey the doctors orders.

Because of the unfortunate incident in New York, my physicians have urged me to limit my speaking engagements for the next year. They suggest this in order to assure a complete recovery. In an attempt to follow this request from my physicians, I find that I must not accept any additional engagements for 1959. I will be very happy to consider your 1960 invitation. As soon as I begin accepting engagements for 1960, I will let you hear from me.

I am glad to know that you are interested in being an agent for the distribution of my book in Petersburg. I will discuss this matter with Rev. Tilley in just a few days.

It was certainly good hearing from you. Give my best regards to your lovely family.

Yours very truly,
Martin L. King, Jr.

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 73.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

To Eleanor Roosevelt

29 October 1958
Montgomery, Ala.

On 20 October Birmingham police arrested thirteen African Americans for violating an ordinance mandating segregated seating on city buses. Fred Shuttlesworth was arrested on conspiracy charges the following day, and on 23 October the fourteen protesters were convicted and held without bond to await sentencing. On 27 October three Montgomery ministers, sent by the MIA to support the Birmingham campaign, were arrested for vagrancy at the Shuttlesworth home. In the following telegram, King informs Roosevelt of a "virtual reign of terror" against Birmingham's black leaders and urges her to press the attorney general and Alabama officials for an investigation.


2. In response to suggestions that the arrests of ministers Solomon S. Scay, A. W. Wilson, and H. H. Hubbard were heavy-handed, police commissioner Eugene Connor declared that "Birmingham does not need any outside agitators coming into our city and dabbling in our affairs" ("Birmingham Police Seize Three Montgomery Ministers," Atlanta Daily World, 28 October 1958).

3. King sent similar telegrams to several labor leaders and civil rights supporters, including Stephen G. Cary of the American Friends Service Committee. After Attorney General William Rogers agreed to investigate the jailing, Connor accused King and others of conspiring to provoke federal intervention in the case ("King-Reuther Team Blamed In Jury Probe," Montgomery Advertiser, 19 November 1958; see also King to Cary, 30 October 1958, and Cary to King, 3 November 1958).
A VIRTUAL REIGN OF TERROR GRIPS BIRMINGHAM ALA. REV F L SHUTTLESWORTH AND OTHER NEGRO LEADERS ARRESTED, DENIED BAIL, HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR 5 DAYS, DENIED COUNSEL, DECLARED GUILTY AND NOW FACE UP TO 3 MONTHS AS RESULT OF NON-VIOLENT EFFORT TO ERADICATE SEGREGATION. THREE MONTGOMERY CLERGYMEN OFFERING SPIRITUAL COMFORT TO MRS SHUTTLESWORTH WERE ARRESTED IN HER HOME. CHARGED WITH VAGRANCY DENIED COUNSEL AND ORDERED NOT TO RETURN TO BIRMINGHAM. THIS IS PART OF A LAWLESS PATTERN WHICH RESULTS IN BOMBING THE CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, SCHOOLS AND HOMES. IT IS ALL THE MORE FEARFUL BECAUSE IN BIRMINGHAM IT OPERATES THROUGH CONSTITUTED POLICE AUTHORITY. THE JAILING OF THESE LEADERS IS AN ACT OF TERROR DESIGNED TO DEPROVE SOUTHERN NEGRO COMMUNITIES OF LEADERSHIP.

WE URGE YOU TO SEND MESSAGES TO UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL, GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA, MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM AND NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS AND CIVIC LEADERS PROTESTING THIS NATIONAL SCANDAL. YOUR ACTION CAN SAVE LIVES=

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR  PRESIDENT SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE=

PHWSr. ERC-NHyF.

“Advice for Living”

November 1958
Chicago, Ill.

Question: I am engaged to a wonderful young woman. She is 19 and I am 23. She was raised as a Christian Scientist and I was raised as a Baptist. Our problem is religion. If we can’t decide which one of us will change his or her religion, should we get married?

Answer: Your problem is a serious one and should be carefully considered. Religious differences can cause a lot of conflict in a marriage relationship, and if at all possible, should be reconciled before marriage takes place between two individuals. Many couples fail to recognize the possible conflict which religious differences can bring about in marriage, thus finding themselves in later years at the verge of a separation. This problem should be faced honestly by both of you. Having a common religious faith would make for a more harmonious relationship in marriage. If you cannot persuade your fiance to accept your religious faith, and if you are not willing to accept her religious faith, both of you should be willing to learn as much as possible about the other’s faith.

Question: What do you do about a relative in her second childhood? This relative is 80 and the language she uses is awful. And she talks about everybody. Church doesn’t do her any good, because she comes right out of church and takes a drink of whiskey. I know old folks have special problems, but this old woman is a mess. How should we handle her?